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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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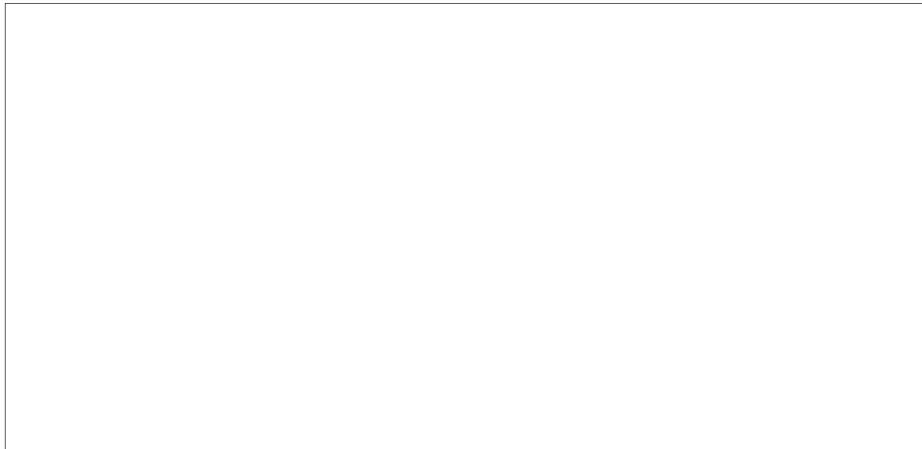
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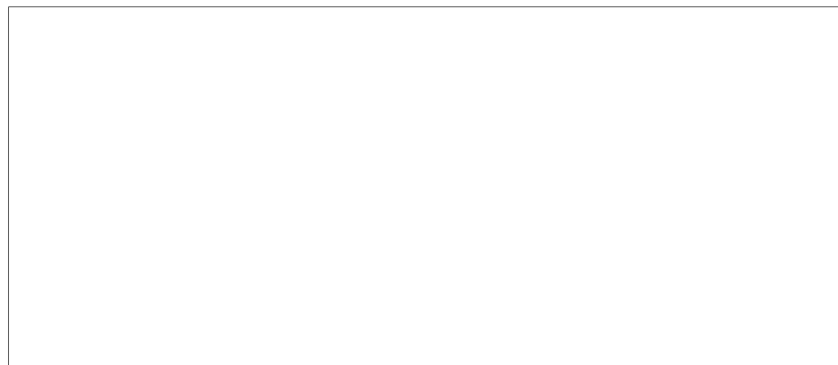
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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)



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*South Vietnam: [Rumors of a possible compromise settlement of the war are circulating in South Vietnam where they are generating widespread uneasiness over the firmness of US purpose.]

[In the northern provinces, stories are prevalent that the US is trying to engineer either a coalition government or a partition of the South. They are being given some credence by the public. In Saigon, the press has been full of warnings of a possible US sell-out, and the allegations are being reinforced by the spread of charges that the US has been in touch with the Liberation Front. There is also wide awareness of recently captured enemy documents which cite the goal of coalition.]

[] some Catholic communities near Saigon are so fearful of an early US move to bring about a coalition that they have offered to support the local corps commander, General Khang, in any move to prevent Saigon from entering into such an arrangement. The corps commander has said that, for his part, he would march on Saigon if the Americans were to set up a coalition involving the Front.]

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[President Thieu and both houses of the national assembly have reiterated their opposition to recognition of the Front in any form. In addition, Thieu has played down the idea of an unconditional suspension of the US bombing in order to open talks with Hanoi.]

Year-end results reflect a substantial gain of 34 percent over the previous year in the Chieu Hoi ("Open Arms") program, although the total was below the target.

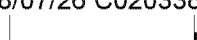
The Chieu Hoi rate began to fall below the 1966 pace in early October of 1967. The enemy's more aggressive military posture and the unsettled Vietnamese

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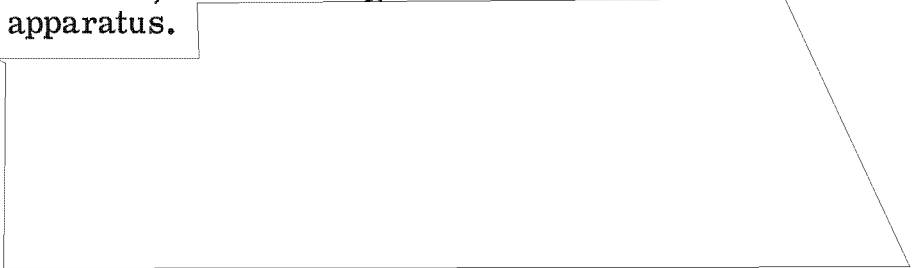
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political situation very likely contributed to the fall-off. Enemy countermeasures, including terrorism against returnees, attacks on Chieu Hoi centers and tighter control of personnel probably were also involved.

Of the 27,178 persons who rallied to the government during 1967, about 18,000 were military personnel and 4,700 were linked to the Viet Cong political apparatus.



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